

"DEPORTATIONS CALL TO HEAVEN FOR VENGEANCE," MERCIER CRIES

Explanatory Comment

THE black year for the Belgian workmen was 1916. Previous to that date resistance to the attempted enslavement by the Germans had proved in some degree effective. Many industries in Flanders were at an absolute standstill because the laborers refused to work for their conquerors. Strikes were frequent and protracted. The numbers of the unemployed increased daily.

During the first two years of the war, however, the German Government refrained from carrying out on a comprehensive scale the hideous policy of deportation. Perhaps the promises of Von der Goltz, to which Cardinal Mercier so often referred, exerted a slight moral influence. Perhaps the alleged necessity for ruthlessness seemed less pressing before the prospects of a comparative early ending of the war were snuffed out.

In any event a change, which can be ascribed partly to desperation, came over the German administration in Belgium during the grim third year of the conflict. In the autumn of that year, Helfferich, addressing the Reichstag, stated that the time had arrived when the empire must compel the men in the occupied territories to work.

The military party, headed by Von Hindenburg, now at the peak of his power and transferred to the western front, was said to have found even the brutal Von Bissing too mild. The credentials of terrorism which he had acquired in the case of Edith Cavell were insufficient. The Governor General and the field marshal actually differed as to the methods to be pursued in Belgium.

It was reported that Von der Lancken's visit to Berlin had been undertaken to induce the war chiefs, if possible, to modify their employment plans. Such an effort, assuming that it was made, was altogether unavailing. Brand Whitlock asserts that Von Bissing was a student of Machiavelli's "The Prince" and had the notion that it would profit Germany more to play off the Flamands against the Walloons than to deport the working population. On October 21, 1916, he journeyed to Ghent to open the new Flemish university.

At that very moment the deportation plans were being speedily pushed, and the Governor General's flattering words had the ring of arch hypocrisy.

Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, England.

(Continuation of Chapter XXX—The Deportation of the Unemployed.)

MOREOVER, if the Belgian has to complain of this state of affairs, let him address his complaints to England. She is the great criminal. She by her policy of isolation has brought about this restricted measure."

Every Belgian workman sets free a German workman who will become an additional soldier for the German army. It is this fact in all its nakedness that dominates the situation. The author of the letter himself feels this glaring fact, for he writes: "The measure has no connection whatever with the conduct of the war properly so called." It has, therefore, a connection with the war improperly so called. What does this mean except that the Belgian workman does not indeed bear arms, but frees the hands of the Germans who will take up arms. The Belgian worker is constrained to co-operate indirectly. This is in palpable contradiction with the spirit of The Hague convention. Again the lack of work is not the fault of the Belgian workman, nor of England; it is an effect of the German occupation and its regime.

Tools and Machines Seized

The occupying power has taken possession of considerable supplies of raw materials destined for our national industry; it has seized and sent off to Germany the tools, the machines and metals of our workshops and factories. The very possibility of national work being thus eliminated there remained for the workman but one alternative: to work for the German empire either here or in Germany, or to remain idle. Some tens of thousands of workmen under the pressure of fear or famine agreed, under constraint for the most part, to work for the foreigner; but four hundred thousand workmen preferred to give themselves over to idleness with all its attendant privations rather than to do an ill-service to their country. They lived in poverty with the help of slender assistance allowed them by the national committee of help and alms, under the control of the protecting ministers of Spain, America and Holland. Calm and self-respecting, they bore without a murmur their painful lot. Nowhere was there any rising or sign of rising; master and workmen awaited with patience the end of our protracted trial.

Nevertheless communal administrations and private initiative endeavored to lessen the undeniable inconvenience of unemployment. But the occupying power paralyzed all their efforts. The national committee endeavored to organize a course of technical instruction for the benefit of the unemployed. This scheme of instruction, characterized by a tender regard for the workman's self-respect, wished to take him by the hand, to enlarge his capacity for work and thus prepare the way for the country's resurrection. Who thwarted this noble enterprise, the plan of which had been carefully thought out by the great captains of industry? Who? Why the power in occupation. Nevertheless the communes did their best to initiate works of practical utility to be carried out by the unemployed. These the Governor General would not permit without his previous sanction, a sanction which he generally refused. I am told that the Governor General in not a few cases graciously gave his permission for works of this kind with the express stipulation that the unemployed should not be engaged on them.

Belgian Workmen Not Lazy

In fact, they wanted unemployment. The German army indirectly was recruited from the ranks of those out of work.

No, the Belgian workman is far from lazy; nay; he worships labor. In all the economic struggles of modern times he has proved his worth. When he reflected posts commanding a big salary offered him by the occupying authority, he did so from patriotic self-respect. We shepherds of the people, intimately acquainted with their sorrows and anxieties, we know what great cost they preferred independence coupled with privation to comfort and ease linked with subjection.

The letter of October 29 boldly states that the nation chiefly to blame for the unemployment of our workmen is England, because she hinders raw materials from entering Belgium.

England generously allows foodstuffs to enter Belgium under the control of neutral states—Spain, the United States and Holland. She would certainly under the same control permit the entrance of raw materials required by our industries, provided Germany would consent to our retaining them and did not evince on our manufactured goods.

But Germany by various methods, notably by the cunning organization of her "Centrales," over which to Belgium or any one outside of the protecting ministers exercises any official control, absorbs a considerable quantity of our agricultural produce and of the country's manufactured goods. The result is a disquieting rise in the cost of living, the cause of painful privations to those who have used up their savings or never had any. The community of interests, the advantage of which the letter lauds to the skies, is not the normal equilibrium of commercial exchange, but the predominance of the strong over the weak.

As to this condition of economic inferiority to which we are reduced, do not, I pray, represent it to me as a privilege that justifies forced labor for our country's profit, and counterbalances the deportation of regions of innocent beings into a land of exile.

After the penalty of death, slavery—deportation—is the heaviest punishment known to the penal code.

Belgium, that has never done you any harm, has she deserved at your hands this treatment calling to heaven for vengeance?

Sir, I recalled at the outset your whole utterance: "I have come to Belgium with a mission to heal the country's wounds."

Two years ago the excuse made for death, pillage and conflagration was that it was war. Perhaps for one party, whom charity too kindly excused, it was the intoxication of opening victories. Today it is war no longer. It is frigid calculation, deliberate destruction, the empire of force over right, the abasement of human nature, a challenge to humanity. It lies with your Excellency to stop these cries of conscience in revolt.

Receive, sir, the homage of our sincere esteem.
(Signed) D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,
Archbishop of Malines.

Von Bissing Dodges Issue

The preceding letter having been returned to the archbishop's house by the postal authorities because unstamped, the Cardinal sent it a second time to Baron von Bissing with the following note:

Archbishop's House, Malines,
November 12, 1916.

To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor General, Brussels.

Your Excellency—The inclosed letter, dated November 10, will reach your Excellency late, because it has been returned to me. It had been posted unstamped.

(Signed) D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,
Archbishop of Malines.

The Governor General shirked the discussion. To the closely knitted arguments of the Cardinal he merely opposed his former considerations, as expounded, almost word for word, in his dispatch of October 26.

Government General of Belgium, Brussels,
November 23, 1916.

To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Eminence's esteemed letter of the 10th inst., also the note which you sent on the 15th inst., to explain the delay in the arrival of your letter. My answer is as follows:

Your Eminence wrote to me on the 10th of October last with the object of putting an end to the deportation of Belgian unemployed into Germany. In my reply of October 19, while fittingly realizing your Eminence's standpoint, I set forth the reasons which induced the occupying power to form its decisions respecting the unemployed. These decisions were not come to arbitrarily, nor without ample investigation of this difficult problem, but were on the contrary the result of an exhaustive study of all the aspects of this question. The necessity of the steps taken was recognized as unavoidable. In short, I feel justified in referring your Eminence to the considerations which I set out in my letter of October 26. The reasons you allege for combating them rest either on the mistaken interpretation you give them, or are derived from theories which from their very nature I cannot admit, for such widespread unemployment in Belgium is a serious sore in the body politic, and from this point of view a benefit would be conferred on the unemployed if work were provided for them in Germany. In this sense the steps taken are by no means contrary to the desire I expressed to your Eminence the very moment I arrived in Belgium, to remedy the evils the war has inflicted on the Belgian people. I must also maintain that your Eminence fails to understand the reality of facts, when you seek to deny my efforts to restore the economic life of Belgium—efforts which have often been crowned with success, and also when you say that so far from favoring the re-creation of industry, the occupying power has endeavored to create an artificial state of unemployment. England has imposed unacceptable conditions on the importation of raw materials into Belgium and on the exportation of manufactured goods. These questions were at the proper moment the subject of constant negotiations with the competent authorities of Belgium and neutral countries. I will not enter into details; that would take me too far afield. I content myself with repeating that in their ultimate analysis the deplorable conditions that obtain in Belgium are a result of the English blockade just as the confiscation of raw material was a measure also dictated by that policy. Again, I am absolutely convinced that from the economic point of view the occupying power guarantees to Belgium all the advantages which can be secured for her, taking into account the distress caused by England.

In carrying out the steps taken with regard to the unemployed, my officials have met with a long series of difficulties entailing annoyances, which have reacted also upon the whole population. All that could have been avoided, had the various municipal bodies shown good will and facilitated the execution of these measures.

In the actual circumstances it was needful to adopt more general measures, the first result of which was to oblige persons other than the unemployed to answer the roll-call. But arrangements were made to preclude all possibility of error, but those belonging to certain professions were dispensed from appearing, while genuine appeals are either heard at once or passed on for investigation.

From all the above facts, your Eminence will perceive the impossibility of complying with your desire to put a stop to the line of action we have decided upon, but, on the contrary, the execution of these measures, in spite of all the difficulties we meet with, will be carried out in the best interests of all.
(Signed) BARON VON BISSING.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.
Copyright, Canada, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.
International Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.

YOU CAN BEAT THE "PROFITEER"

by cutting out the expensive foods (so lacking in real nutriment) and eating the simple, natural, inexpensive foods that contain the largest amount of digestible nutriment. **Shredded Wheat** contains more real nutriment than meat or eggs, is more easily digested than potatoes or other starchy foods. Two of these little loaves of baked whole wheat with hot milk (or hot water and butter) make a nourishing, satisfying meal at a cost of a few cents.



Preparatory School

New classes now forming. Bookkeeping, special 10 weeks' course. Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, English and Latin. Day School classes in Grammar School subjects. Tuition free in all branches.

Y M C A

Central Branch, 1421 Arch Street

ASK FOR and GET Horlick's

The Original Malted Milk For Infants and Invalids. Avoid imitations and substitutes.

KELLY'S 12 N. 9th

Open Day & Night Oysters in Every Style. We Have an Excellent Local and National Reputation.

Galvanized Boat Pumps

L. H. Berger Co., 50 N. 2d St. Phone 4000. Keokuk, Ia.

MOUNTING on Muslin and Cardboard of Maps, Posters and Plans.

NATIONAL BLUE PRINT CO. 38 S. 6th St., Phila. Market 1900 Main 569

FOOT AND LIMB TROUBLE

Instantly relieved by our special arch supports, fitted and adjusted by experts. Our Seamless Elastic Hoop, the most comfortable support for varicose veins, swollen limbs, weak knees and ankles. Trusses, abdominal and athletic supporters of all kinds. Largest supply of deformity appliances in the world. Philadelphia Orthopedic Co., 10 N. 13th St. Cut out and keep for reference—P. 1, 4.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

New Class Now Forming. A short-term course in public speaking, self-expression, self-education, business, English and advanced self-development. Given consecutive Friday evenings, commencing January 23, at 8 P. M. Both sexes. Opening lecture free to public. Call, write or phone Spruce 3218 for instructive literature.

NEFF COLLEGE

1730 CHESTNUT ST.

CURRY'S DEVELOPING PRINTING AND ENLARGEMENTS

THE BETTER KIND CAMERAS

GIFTS STATIONERY-FOUNTAIN PENS LEATHER GOODS-FRAMED PICTURES 812 CHESTNUT ST. 812

BEST COAL

Egg Coal \$11.50 Net Coal \$11.95 Stove Coal \$11.85 Per Coal 9.55

Buy your coal now, don't wait until you are entirely out. Be prepared.

Owen Letter's Sons

Largest Coal Yard in Philadelphia Trenton Ave. & Westmoreland

Keystone, East 235. Mail, Frankford 2154

Greater Buying Than Ever
Greater Savings Than Ever
Finer Clothing Than Ever

William H. Wanamaker Store's January Clear-away Booming!

GOOD Suits and Overcoats in unexcelled variety; fashionably designed, perfectly tailored—all-wool with prices so markedly lowered that this once-a-year sale has no rival in Chestnut Street for popularity among the men and young men of the city!

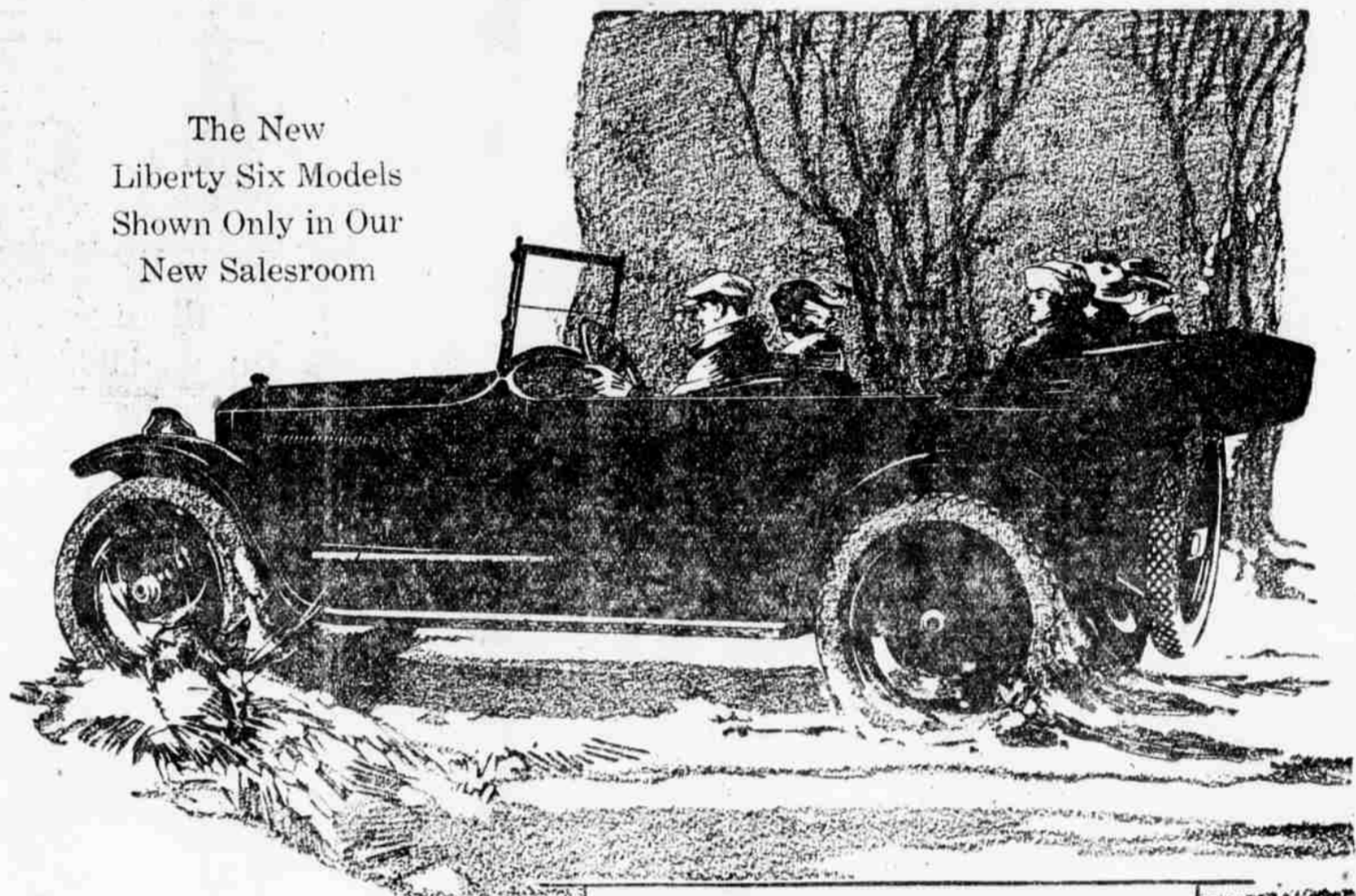
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$27.50 for \$35 & \$40 Suits | \$25 for \$35.00 Overcoats |
| \$35.00 for \$40 & \$45 Suits | \$30 for \$35 & \$40 Overcoats |
| \$40.00 for \$45 & \$50 Suits | \$35 for \$40 & \$45 Overcoats |
| \$45.00 for \$50 & \$55 Suits | \$40 for \$50 & \$55 Overcoats |
| \$55.00 for \$60 & \$65 Suits | \$45 for \$55 & \$60 Overcoats |
| \$65.00 for \$70 & \$75 Suits | \$50 for \$65 & \$75 Overcoats |

\$50 for Finest Suiting and Overcoatings
Built to your Measure—Regularly up to \$75

William H. Wanamaker

1217-19 Chestnut Street

The New Liberty Six Models
Shown Only in Our New Salesroom



An individual showing of the Liberty Six Including new models

presented for the first time at the New York Show, and not heretofore shown at Philadelphia, will be exhibited at our New Salesroom.

This is the only place where you can see the New Liberty-built motor.

This car involves no departure from Liberty fundamentals.

In its inner excellence, however, as in its outer appearance, the Liberty has been made unmistakably better and more beautiful.

Your investigation of the better cars can only be considered thorough and fair to your own interests when the Liberty Six has been included.

W. S. KIP MOTOR COMPANY
1408-1410 North Broad St.
(At Master St.)
Philadelphia
Open Evenings Until Eleven

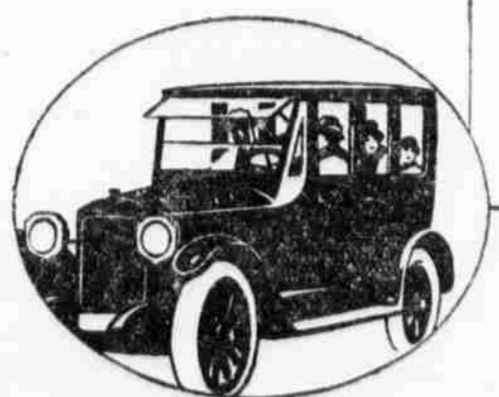
To the Motoring Public

The members of our firm have been prominently identified with Philadelphia automobile interests for many years.

We believe that our representation of the Liberty Six affords us further opportunity to gain, and hold, the good will which our efforts, heretofore, have always aimed to deserve.

Sincerely yours

Walter S. Kip



LIBERTY SIX